

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks and amendments.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 15-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-31, 34-37, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application 2002/0117578 (Denen '578). Claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denen '578 in view of U.S. Patent 6,363,057 (Ardalan '057).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the reason that Denen '578 does not disclose or teach each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 25, 26, and 40, and Ardalan '057 does not correct this deficiency.

Independent claim 1 recites an apparatus adapted to dispense a web of sheet material from a continuous roll. The apparatus comprises identification relating to absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll, an identifier configured to identify the absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll from the identification, and a processor configured to receive data relating to the absorbent characteristics of the sheet material on the roll. The processor is further configured to process the data and generate an output command, and a controller is configured to control the length of sheet material dispensed from the roll in response to the output command.

Independent claim 25 recites a dispenser for dispensing sheet material from a supply roll including identification relating to absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll. The dispenser comprises an identifier for identifying the absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll from the identification. The dispenser further includes a processor for receiving identification data from the identifier, processing the

data, and generating an output command, and a controller for controlling the length of sheet materials dispensed from the supply roll in response to the output command.

Independent claim 26 recites a method of dispensing a web of sheet material from a continuous roll. The method comprises providing a roll of sheet material which includes identification relating to absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll, identifying the absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll, processing data relating to the absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll to generate an output command, and controlling a length of sheet material dispensed from the roll in response to the output command.

Independent claim 40 recites an apparatus for dispensing a web of sheet material from a continuous roll. The apparatus comprises a support for rotatably supporting a roll of sheet material which includes identification relating to absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll.

Denen '578 discloses a sheet material dispenser with a perforation sensor 22 configured to sense perforations in the sheet material (See Denen '578, ¶ 0069). Therefore, the apparatus in Denen '578 dispenses sheet material based on the location and detection of perforations in the sheet material, not the absorbent characteristics of the sheet material. As a result, the apparatus in Denen '578 requires the manufacturer of the sheet material to perforate the sheet material at specific intervals, and the perforations in the sheet material do not necessarily correlate to the absorbent characteristics of the sheet material.

The invention recited in independent claims 1, 25, 26, and 40 overcomes the disadvantages of Denen '578 by identifying the absorbent characteristics of the sheet

material, regardless of the presence, spacing, or detection of perforations in the sheet material. This structural improvement is not disclosed or taught by Denen '578, and Ardalan '057 does not correct this deficiency. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejections of claims 1, 2, 5-8, 15-19, 21-23, 25-27, 29-31, 34-37, and 39 based on Denen '578 and the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claim 40 based on the combination of Denen '578 and Ardalan '057.

Claims 1-4, 9, 14-16, 25, 27, 28, 32, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,419,136 (Formon '136) in view of U.S. 6,894,711 (Yamakawa '711). Claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Formon '136 in view of Yamakawa '711 and Ardalan '057. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the reason that Formon '136 does not disclose or teach each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 25, and 40, and Yamakawa '711 and Ardalan '057 do not correct this deficiency.

Similar to the previous discussion with respect to Denen '578, Formon '136 discloses a dispensing apparatus that dispenses sheet material based on the location and detection of perforations in the sheet material, not the absorbent characteristics of the sheet material. As a result, the apparatus in Formon '136 requires the manufacturer of the sheet material to perforate the sheet material at specific intervals, and the perforations in the sheet material do not necessarily correlate to the absorbent characteristics of the sheet material.

The invention recited in independent claims 1, 25, and 40 overcomes the disadvantages of Formon '136 by identifying the absorbent characteristics of the sheet material, regardless of the presence, spacing, or detection of perforations in the sheet

material. This structural improvement is not disclosed or taught by Formon '136, and Yamakawa '711 and Ardalan '057 do not correct this deficiency. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of claims 1-4, 9, 14-16, 25, 27, 28, 32, 35, and 40 based on the combination of Formon '136, Yamakawa '711, and Ardalan '057.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in complete condition for allowance, and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after consideration of this amendment, then Examiner Haugland is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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